

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALDERMAN PAUL GARCIA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alderman Paul Garcia for his public service to the city of Charlotte, Texas.

Paul Garcia joined the Army when he was 19 years old. He served throughout Europe for 7 years on various assignments for the United States. During his stay in service, he received the Instructor of the Year Award in 1997 and the Joseph Hibbs Award. He was also awarded of the Kentucky Colonel Award from the Governor of Kentucky. In 1998, he retired after 20 years of service in the military.

Mr. Garcia is currently serving his second term as Alderman Place 1. He works on several committees and fundraisers within the community. Currently Paul Garcia has been playing an active role in the establishment of a park in Charlotte.

Paul Garcia lives in Charlotte with his wife Frances and they have two children together. As a pillar of his local community, he is a route manager for all of San Antonio and the surrounding country.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize Alderman Paul Garcia of Charlotte for his dedicated public service.

A TRIBUTE TO MANUEL VARGAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Manuel Vargas who is being honored at the Brooklyn Caribe Lions Club dinner dance as "Real Estate Broker of the Year."

Manuel is a successful licensed real estate broker in New York and Florida. He graduated magna cum laude from New York University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Real Estate. Manuel has more than 10 years of experience in the real estate market. A Hall of Fame member for a large franchise in the new millennium, Manuel decided to start PAN/AMERICAN Realty.

Amongst his reasons for doing so was because he wanted to deliver excellent, personalized service to his clients and to establish a household name that would be synonymous with honesty, professionalism and efficient marketing techniques. His goal was to give real advice to clients and customers about all facets of the real estate industry.

Throughout his career, Manuel has learned that he can also make a positive impact in the

community that he works in by helping those in need. He has received numerous awards for all of the support and dedication he has given to different organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Manuel Vargas has been a leader in his community and has been a wonderful example of how dedication and perseverance can lead to success. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and the award of Real Estate Broker of the Year. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION DESIGNATING THE ED EILERT POST OFFICE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation designating the United States Postal Service facility located at 12433 Antioch Road in Overland Park, Kansas, as the "Ed Eilert Post Office Building." I am joined in sponsoring this measure by my colleagues from Kansas: Representatives TODD TIAHRT, JIM RYUN and JERRY MORAN, and I am grateful for their support of this bipartisan legislation.

Later this month, an era will come to an end in Overland Park. Ed Eilert will step down as Mayor of Overland Park, an office to which he was elected six times and held for twenty-four years. Since he was sworn into office in 1981, Overland Park has grown to become Kansas' second largest city. Its population has nearly doubled to over 165,000, the number of people working within the city's limits has more than tripled, with roughly 120,000 jobs in Overland Park today, and hotel capacity has increased from about 800 rooms to 5,100 rooms. During his tenure, 21,897 single family and 19,533 multifamily residences have been added in Overland Park, along with 23.7 million square feet of office, retail and industrial space. Over the years, the city has seen the arrival of the Sprint campus, three new hospitals, the University of Kansas Edwards campus, the Carlsen Center at Johnson County Community College, and a city convention center.

Additionally, under Ed Eilert's leadership the city has added the landmark Clock Tower Plaza and the Farmer's Market in the downtown area, a neighborhood conservation program, the Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, the International Trade Center, the W. Jack Sanders Justice Center, and interchanges at 1-435 at both Nall Avenue and Quivira Road. Mayor Eilert also supported construction of the Fire Training Center, used by many other city and county fire departments in the Kansas City metropolitan area, and he worked with Johnson County Community College to create

a training facility for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway employees on the college campus. And during Mayor Eilert's tenure, the city's land area expanded by 36 percent, to nearly 62 square miles. Finally, Overland Park enjoys a top rating for a solid financial condition. It has received numerous awards as an outstanding city. For years, Overland Park has had the lowest property tax rate of any first-class city in Kansas.

Ed Eilert was first elected to the Overland Park City Council in 1977 and became Council president in 1980. A former teacher at Shawnee Mission North High School, he knows firsthand how Overland Park has benefited significantly from its nationally recognized school systems. He had made his first visit to the city in 1960 because it was the home of Jan Bush, who he met while studying at Emporia State University and would marry two years later. The Eilerts moved to Overland Park in 1965 when he completed graduate school. In 1977, he began his first campaign for political office and has been a public servant continuously since then. He also has been a financial consultant with A.G. Edwards & Sons and serves on the board of directors of Metcalf Bank.

When you consider the daunting array of challenges that Ed Eilert faced in his twenty four years as mayor of Overland Park, you cannot help but agree with Bob Sigmund, the opinion page editor of the Johnson County Sun, who recently wrote that Eilert "provided the vision and leadership in shaping Overland Park's success as an ideal place to live, work and raise a family . . . Eilert's political skills have been especially useful in easing tensions—and maintaining an acceptable balance—between the older, established neighborhoods in northern Overland Park and the rapidly expanding new subdivisions in the south."

I am proud to call Ed Eilert my friend. While we are members of different political parties, I have always been impressed by his sound judgment, diligence, and dedication to his community and to the public welfare. When he sought the Republican nomination for the U.S. House in 1996, however, he lost narrowly to then-State Representative Vince Snowbarger for the nomination to succeed Representative Jan Meyers. I often tell Third District residents that I would have not sought election to Congress myself had Ed Eilert been elected two years before I became a candidate for the office.

Dedication of this Postal Service facility in Overland Park is a small but fitting tribute to a man who has dedicated most of his adult life to public service at the community level, working tirelessly to bring people together while ensuring quality economic development and competence in the delivery of local services. I commend Mayor Ed Eilert and again thank my colleagues in the Kansas House delegation for their support. I hope the House can move quickly to approve this legislation so we can soon see it signed into law.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

COMMENDING OUTSTANDING EFFORTS OF ARMED FORCES AND EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND USAID IN RESPONSE TO EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI OF DECEMBER 26, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 120, commending the outstanding efforts of our military and civilian personnel who responded to the humanitarian crisis engendered by the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004. I commend my colleagues, Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. LEACH, for submitting this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I traveled to Southeast Asia in January to help assess the damage caused by the tsunami. I saw firsthand the overwhelming scale of the human tragedy that killed over 250,000 people. Without the heroic efforts of the U.S. Armed Forces personnel and the civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, the death toll would have been far worse.

These men and women worked tirelessly to help provide necessities, like drinking water, food, and medical supplies, to survivors of the tragedy. In addition, many worked to coordinate the relief efforts of donors, relief organizations, aid agencies, and governments. The civilian employees worked to identify and assist U.S. citizens who were affected by the tsunami.

Because of the courageous efforts of these Americans, I have no doubt that many lives were saved. This selfless giving in a time of crisis was beyond the call of duty. Their efforts deserve great recognition and I am proud to support this resolution commending them.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 184th anniversary of Greece's declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire. Against impossible odds, the Greeks defeated one of the most powerful empires in history and gained their independence.

In March 1821, after 400 years of Ottoman rule, Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the traditional Greek flag at the monastery of Agia Lavras, inciting his countrymen to rise against the Ottoman army. The Bishop timed this act of revolution to coincide with the Greek Orthodox holiday celebrating the archangel Gabriel's announcement that the Virgin Mary was pregnant with the divine child. Bishop Germanos's message to his people was clear: a new spirit was about to be born in Greece.

Greek Independence Day is an appropriate time to reflect upon the strong ties between Greece and the United States. Indeed, when the Greeks of 1821 fought for independence from the Ottoman Empire, they drew inspira-

tion from the ideals and institutions of the fledgling United States. During their War of Independence, the Greeks also received encouragement from many Americans, including Presidents James Madison and James Monroe and Representatives Daniel Webster and Henry Clay, each of whom gave memorable speeches in Congress in support of the Greek revolutionaries. Just as our defeat of the British army was remarkable, so too was the Greek triumph over the Ottoman Army, a momentous achievement in world history.

As many of my colleagues know, New York City is home to the largest Hellenic population outside of Greece and Cyprus. Western Queens, which I have the honor of representing, is often called Little Athens because of the large Hellenic population in that neighborhood.

New Yorkers celebrate Greek Independence Day with a parade on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, along with a great many cultural events and private gatherings. These events, hosted by the Federation of Hellenic Societies and other Hellenic and Philhellenic organizations and friends, remind us of the Hellenic-American community's many contributions to our nation's history and culture.

On April 10, the President of the Federation of Hellenic Societies, Nikos Diamontidis, along with the organization's officers and board members, will join Parade Committee Chairman Dinos Rallis, Co-Chairmen Tasos Manesis and Philip Christopher and Co-Chairwoman Georgia Kaloidis in reminding New Yorkers of the glory of Greece, the joy of the Olympics and the hope of freedom and human rights for all. The Grand Marshals of this year's parade are my distinguished colleague, Senator PAUL SARBANES, his wife, Christine, Anthony Diamataris, the Editor and Publisher of the National Herald and his wife, Litsa. Adding to the day's ethnic pride will be parade emcees Nick Gregory, Anthoula Katsimatides and Petros Fourniotis.

In 2004, the Athens Olympics united the world. Today, while New Yorkers pay tribute to Greece's accomplishments, we also seek to add our hometown to the list of great Olympic host cities. It is my hope that one of Greece's most enduring contributions to world history will finally come to New York City in 2012.

As the founder and co-Chairperson of the Hellenic Caucus in Congress, I ask the nation to join me in celebrating Greece's independence. Additionally, it is my sincere pleasure to pay tribute to New York's Hellenic-American community for its many contributions to our city and nation.

"Zeto E Eleftheria!" (Long Live Freedom!)

IN CELEBRATION OF GROUP A BOYS' BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to call attention to a group of young students from Surry County, Virginia, who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Surry High School Cougars boys' basketball team had a remarkable season and I

believe the Cougars deserve formal recognition for their accomplishments. On March 12, 2005, the Cougars won their first Group A Boys' Basketball State Championship at the Virginia Commonwealth University Siegel Center in Richmond. Surry completed its 2005 season with a truly impressive record of 26-4.

The Cougars have dedicated this year's championship run to their Head Coach, Joe Ellis. Mr. Ellis was diagnosed with colon and stomach cancer twenty months ago. Despite his diagnosis and subsequent chemotherapy treatments, Mr. Ellis has continued to coach the Cougars, missing only one game during their championship season. His dedication and commitment to the team have given his players a model of how to face adversity both on the basketball court and in life.

Along with the State Championship, the Cougars won this year's Tri-Rivers District Tournament and the Region A Tournament. Coach Ellis was awarded Coach of the Year by the Virginia High School Coaches Association. Junior center Edward Barham was also honored as Player of the Year.

I want to extend my enthusiastic congratulations for a job well done to Coach Ellis and the Surry High School Cougars—the 2005 Group A Virginia High School League Boys' Basketball State Champions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 90, had I been present, I would have voted "no".

HONORING DR. CONSTANTINE P. KIAMOS AND STEINMETZ ACADEMIC CENTRE

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of one of Chicago's great educators, Dr. Constantine P. Kiamos, former Principal of the Steinmetz Academic Centre.

Steinmetz Academic Centre stands in the heart of Chicago's Belmont-Cragin neighborhood, and has served the people of this community for over ninety years. Dr. Kiamos retired from Steinmetz last year after two decades of distinguished leadership, and was recently honored at a school event.

During his tenure, Steinmetz underwent many changes, including a major increase in enrollment. Through all of the changes, Steinmetz maintained its commitment to providing students with a high caliber education.

Dr. Kiamos has always believed in the importance of public education. Before he was the principal of Steinmetz Academic Centre, he served as Principal of Lovett School; Assistant Principal at Carpenter School and was a teacher at Medill Elementary.

Steinmetz's mission is to provide equal access to education for all students in an environment that is intellectually, physically and